

Decision Paves Way for Additional Local Investment

WASHINGTON- Congresswoman Louise Slaughter announced today she has secured the removal of a trade restriction that will help Firth Rixson's Rochester manufacturing plant. Slaughter, a long-time proponent of aggressive pro-manufacturing domestic trade law, helped level the playing field in order to protect 140 local manufacturing jobs and pave the way for additional private investment in Rochester.

"It is vitally important to me that companies in my district like Firth Rixson and Hickey Freeman don't have to operate with one hand tied behind their backs," said Slaughter. "We need to do everything we can to protect the competitiveness of these companies and the good manufacturing jobs that they provide to people in my district. I will continue to fight to level the international trade playing field because I believe it is long past time to put American workers first."

Firth Rixson, a manufacturer of aerospace components, was at a competitive disadvantage due to a 15% tariff on the import of titanium, an important raw material, while foreign competitors are able to access this key product duty-free. Metals including titanium account for between 50 and 60 percent of the final cost of Firth Rixson's aerospace components. The tariff results in significantly higher costs and puts the company at a competitive disadvantage relative to international competitors. Global competition includes companies located in China, Russia and Mexico.

In early 2012, Slaughter began a concerted, sustained push to urge the Department of Commerce to lift the trade restriction. Slaughter authored letters to the Department in February and again in August. In late December 2012, the Department's Foreign Trade Zone Board officially responded to the request and will lift the titanium restriction. Slaughter's letters are attached.